

October 26, 2009

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Chief Waters; Chief Beloit; Supt. Gray; Andy Hoehn; Judy Whitten; Dr. Keith Spurgeon, Mr. Loren Evans, and Mr. Tom Kopatich – MSD of Mt. Vernon; Richard and Martha Stratton; Alan Blackburn; Larry Williams; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Angela Gerald – Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Attorney Higgins.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Attorney Higgins arrived at the meeting.

Board member Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented.

Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Higgins moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated he has no report, but Supt. Gray does.

Supt. Gray stated everything is going very well at the plant, and the river is getting dirtier, but all in all everything is going real well. He concluded by stating October 27<sup>th</sup> they will be having safety training, for insurance purposes.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions could be directed to Bookkeeper Bennett.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?  
There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?  
There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.  
Board member Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.  
Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe  
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Chief Waters; Chief Beloat; Supt. Gray; Andy Hoehn; Judy Whitten; Dr. Keith Spurgeon, Mr. Loren Evans, and Mr. Tom Kopatich – MSD of Mt. Vernon; Richard and Martha Stratton; Alan Blackburn; Larry Williams; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Angela Gerald – Mount Vernon Democrat; Attorney Higgins; and arriving during the meeting Comm. Maynard; Supt. Givens; Shari Banks; Joe Winiger; and Bill Newman.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?  
There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.  
Comm. Maynard was not present.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Police & Dog Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report.

Chief Belloat stated he has no report.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Fire Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.  
Chief Waters replied everything is under control.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated Supt. Givens reported Thursday that Phase I is 90% complete.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they are now ready for the Legal portion of the Agenda.  
Attorney Higgins stated the first item is the Public Hearing on the Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the General, MVHF, and COIT Funds, to be followed by third reading. She added the ordinance passed the first two readings and this is needed to help keep the books in order.  
Mayor Tucker stated he will now open the Public Hearing and asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council on this ordinance ?  
There was no response.  
Mayor Tucker stated he will now close the Public Hearing, and then entertained action on the ordinance.  
Councilwoman Askren moved the ordinance pass final reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn  
Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?  
There was none.  
Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.  
Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:  
Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;  
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.  
Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.  
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 09-27.  
Comm. Maynard arrived at the meeting.

Attorney Higgins stated the next item is the Water Ordinance. She continued by stating this ordinance is up for first reading, as it has been revised from the first draft Council saw. She added the rate first came in around 23% but has been reduced down to a 19.9% increase, across the board, including fire hydrants and sprinkler heads. She stated it would be cleaner to start over fresh with a first reading.  
Councilman Curtis moved the ordinance pass first reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were was any discussion ?  
Supt. Givens arrived at the meeting.  
Mayor Tucker stated as this ordinance does include the fire hydrants, that line item in the budget for next year will be under by at least \$50,000.00. He added according to a figure he saw/heard from Umbaugh, it could be more along the lines of \$100,000 under. With that, he requested a roll call vote.  
Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:  
Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;  
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.  
Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Higgins stated they will have second reading on November 9, with the Public Hearing on November 23. She added this will give the billing clerk time to get notices out on bills by the end of this week. She added they can then have third reading as well on November 23.

Mayor Tucker stated in the Audience and listed on the Agenda is Dr. Keith Spurgeon, with the MSD of Mt. Vernon.

Dr. Spurgeon stated as most people have heard, the District is having money woes and they would like to respond to that tonight by stating there are at least two financial problems causing the situation. He stated they will see a shortfall in 2009 of \$284,000, followed by a shortfall in 2010 of \$680,000.00. He added, that is dangerously low and realistically, the District could be broke by the end of 2011. He then stated the District is spending more than it is taking in, and another sobering fact is the District loses \$6,000 for every student that moves OUT of the District. He added the money/student used to stay in the District, but now, it follows the student. He then stated enrollment is going downhill as they have lost 450 students since the 1995-1996 school year. He added the State is actually “transitioning” them down, and even if enrollment wasn’t down, they would still be losing money. He stated the MSD of MV spends \$7,000/student, the State base per student is only \$5,100.00. He added the District has been making cuts, they have reduced staff, and transferred expenses while also seeking grant funds. He then stated they need to cut \$1M from their budget.

Shari Banks arrived at the meeting.

Dr. Spurgeon continued by stating on top of the \$1M, they could also need to lost an additional \$3M. He stated as he is sure everyone has heard, they are looking into the possibility of closing Hedges Elementary School – some major decisions need to be made. He asked if there were any questions ?

Councilman Fuelling what they would then do with the Hedges building, would it sit empty ?

Dr. Spurgeon replied possibly use if for the District Office; possibly a community center with offices – they would utilize it somehow.

Councilman Fuelling asked if redistricting due to the closing of Hedges would help with the bus capacity ?

Dr. Spurgeon replied no, and the buses are actually in a different fund.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if they know why they have lost so many kids ?

Dr. Spurgeon replied people are moving out of the area. He stated according to today’s Evansville Courier, Mt. Vernon’s population dropped 6% from 2000-2008.

Councilwoman Higgins then asked if the MSD still owns Booker T ?

Dr. Spurgeon replied yes, and they use it for storage. He asked if there were any other questions?

Andy Hoehn stated it appears they were headed down this road anyway, is the big drop in enrollment really also a big issue ?

Dr. Spurgeon replied that is part of the problem yes, but the other issue is the “transition to base” figure.

Mr. Hoehn then asked if there were projected population changes for the next five years, and would that help ?

Dr. Spurgeon replied no, they will continue to lose.

Mr. Hoehn then asked the current student to teacher ratio.

Dr. Spurgeon replied at the Jr. High for example, it is 25-27 students per teacher. They like to keep it at 30 if possible. He then asked if there were any other questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated also listed on the Agenda are Richard and Martha Stratton.

Mr. Stratton approached and stated they have lived in their current residence on W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street since 1974 and they thought this alley had already been vacated. He further stated they also own three other lots there, and again, they are only asking for one half block of the alley to be vacated, from W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street north to the alley.

Joe Winiger arrived at the meeting.

Councilwoman Askren asked if the alley is used ?

Mr. Stratton replied no, not since 1974 anyway.

Councilwoman Askren questioned trash pick up ?

Mr. Stratton replied the trash is picked up in the back alley.

Dr. Spurgeon, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Kopatich left meeting.

Attorney Higgins explained a petition needs to be brought to the Council before any action can be taken. She further stated notices need to be mailed certified to adjoining/adjacent land owners, etc. She added once all of this has been done, that packet of information is then brought before the Council. She stated there is a statutory provision on the procedure and they need to contact an attorney to help guide them through the process, as the attorney will prepare all paperwork for them.

The Stratton's then thanked the Council and left the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated next on the Agenda is Bill Newman with the Posey County Economic Development Partnership.

Mr. Newman stated he is president of the Posey County Economic Development Partnership, and their Mission Statement is as follows:

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Posey County Economic Development Partnership, Inc. was formed to promote the economic climate of Posey County by attracting new business entities and retaining those that are currently located in the county. By strengthening and expanding the County's economic base, residents will enjoy an increase in job opportunities and improved standard of living with expanded services/products.

The goal of the Partnership is to identify and inventory possible commercial and industrial sites within Posey County. By keeping the inventory current, the Partnership can more readily attract new business and help existing businesses wishing to expand/relocate their facilities. The Partnership will encourage expansion and improvement of the infrastructure such as water, sewage, utilities, communication and technology.

The Posey County Economic Development Partnership, Inc. will also work closely with the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana and The Chamber of Commerce of Southwestern Indiana to promote the strengths of Posey County without duplicating efforts.

Mr. Newman added last year the city helped fund the Partnership with \$5,000 and they are hoping for support again in the coming years. He stated the Partnership is part of the Posey County master plan and they are the selling arm of Mt. Vernon and Posey County as a whole. He then cited the following activity of the Partnership from January 1 to September 30, 2009:

- \* 21 Site Selectors have requested information on available properties located in Posey County – packages prepared and sent to all 21
- \* Assisted Agrium when they were looking at expanding in Posey County
- \* PCEDP office set-up and staffed at least on part-time basis
- \* Office equipment purchased and in use
- \* Phone installed
- \* Web site secured and preparing to launch
- \* PCEDP signage purchased and installed at the office
- \* Attended Stimulus Package meetings
- \* Higher education starting in August being offered in Posey County – being offered through Ivy Tech
- \* Business Retention & Expansion group with regional LEDO's meet bi-weekly to review what we need to be preparing for and how to help existing businesses grow and stay strong

- \* Currently meeting with local businesses to explain the PCEDP and asking how we can help them
  - Infinity Molding & Assembly
  - Babcock & Wilcox
  - GAF Building Materials
  - WSI
  - CGB
  - Cargill
  - Countrymark
- \* Strategic Development Group, Inc. in partnership with Hannum, Wagel & Cline Engineering was selected through the scoring process to oversee the Strategic Comprehensive Plan for Posey County Economic Development Partnership, Inc
  - Public Hearings will start soon to get input from the County

Mr. Newman continued by stating in January of 2009 they and the Chamber of Commerce shared an employee, Director Sally Denning, who left her position October 1 of this year. He added they have hired Tiffani Weatherford to replace Mrs. Denning and they hope in the first quarter of 2010 to hire full time Executive Director. He then stated the Partnership is looking for approval from the City for their share, \$36,246.00 to come from the City's EDIT funds. He added he realizes this is a sizeable request but they need to be proactive in keeping companies in the community. He asked if there were any questions ? Councilman Curtis asked how soon they expect to hire their Executive Director ?

Mr. Newman replied by the end of the first quarter 2010.

Councilwoman Higgins asked what Mr. Newman feels is Posey County biggest problem?

Mr. Newman replied focus. He explained they are very fortunate that in the 1950-1970's they attracted a lot of industry, and therefore became more of an industrial hub rather than a residential hub. Again, he stated they need to refocus. Thank goodness for the river and the port. He added they are developing leadership now that is great, but the momentum needs to continue, it takes time.

Mayor Tucker agreed.

Mr. Newman then thanked the Council for their time and consideration.

Mayor Tucker stated in reference to the EDIT funds, they will be working on a budget for that.

Attorney Higgins agreed and added since there currently is no budget, or any funds, an additional appropriation is out of the question until January. She then asked Council give herself and Mayor Tucker guidance on that budget. She added in 2010 the city will receive a full years worth of EDIT proceeds.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she feels it is critical to move forward, the community needs to grow and they should concentrate on this master plan, or they will fail. She added they need leaders to do that for them.

Councilman Curtis agreed and added the Partnership encompasses a much broader base, four counties, and this is a critical piece of it and he frankly looks at this as an investment.

Councilman Fuelling stated in the last election they all talked about the schools, housing, downtown, the riverfront, etc. and so much has been done already, but not all of the loose ends have been tied together yet.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated there are empty buildings everywhere, even in Evansville and this will be an investment in the community's future and the community's kids' future as well.

Councilman Curtis agreed and added they do need industry, but that isn't all.

Councilman Fuelling added they need clean industry that helps a lot of people.

Councilwoman Hoehn further stated they need to keep Mt. Vernon's people here.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other comments ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

Supt. Givens stated he would like to apologize for being late, there were some unforeseeable events that cause his delay. He stated ISI started digging at Mill Creek today, which is the last spot there were to dig. He added after this the CSO will officially be eliminated. He then stated during this dig, they found a sewer line that will be in the way and they need to shut the lift station down. As a result, they will need a by-pass, which they have done in the past, so there will be no discharge. He stated the lift station could only be down a day, hopefully, but it could take into the evening hours. Of course the sewer department will be on hand during the by-pass. He added this work will be done in the W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street block between Mill and Chestnut.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

Alan Blackburn stated as a member of the Posey County Council he is in full support of the PCEDP and asked that the Council please support them as much as they possibly can.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone else in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he would like to discuss the silos. He added he would like permission for Attorney Higgins to write a Resolution giving him permission to look at different options in borrowing the money for the demolition – in addition to the donations they have received. He stated he would like Council to allow the task force to go to different institutions in search of money, as he feels he can probably get a pretty good loan and that could help bring in more donations. He then stated he called Denney Demolition and they have agreed to extend their original bid/demolition price until January 31, 2010.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked how much they have in donations ?

Councilman Fuelling replied \$107,000.00.

Councilman Curtis stated he is interested in looking at options on borrowing, if it is feasible and if they can get a good interest rate. He stated this issue has been on the table, just sitting there, they can't afford to lose this opportunity to demolish the silos. He added he would like to see this Resolution written up. Councilman Fuelling stated if they wait or try to get grants, there are always strings attached, and the bid price could go up. He stated he feels they should continue the force and a payment of \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year for ten years is not that much of a burden to the city.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no problem with the Resolution to explore their options. She added this would also help to show the community that the Council is doing something to further this along.

Councilman Fuelling agreed.

Council consented to have Attorney Higgins draw up a Resolution.

Mayor Tucker stated under New Business, a few meetings ago the question of a community bulletin board came up. He will let Larry Williams update the Council.

Mr. Williams stated he is president of the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Tucker asked the Chamber if they could help with this and the Evansville Chamber is just tickled to death to help. Anyone with an event to post should call the Mayor's office, the Evansville Chamber, or they can send him an email or drop it off at IGA. He added again, he fully supports this community bulletin board.

Mayor Tucker added the city will also post events on the city website as well.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1<sup>st</sup> District Councilwoman Askren questioned the truck traffic in the Kimball Street area, as she has received an email about that.

Councilwoman Higgins stated the trucks have found a loop hole there in the form of E. Water Street, there are no weight limits on that street. She further stated there is one block she believes with no weight limits. She added the truck drivers are on to the fact that there is more police presence in the area as well, so now they are taking Edson Street. She stated E. 2<sup>nd</sup> and E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets both have weight limits.

Councilman Fuelling asked if they are talking Edson from Bluff to 4<sup>th</sup> ?

Shari Banks left the meeting.

Councilman Fuelling added asked if phone calls were made to the Port ?

Chief Beloit replied yes, and Mr. Wilsbacher wants to meet with him and a representative of Consolidated Grain and Barge.

Councilwoman Higgins added she would like to come to that meeting as well once a date has been set.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated this will be putting a lot of traffic on Kimball, is that what the Council wants ?

Bill Newman left the meeting.

Chief Beloit replied no, and the best solution would be to remove all truck traffic but there is no way to do that right now.

Councilwoman Higgins stated she spoke with Sen. Deig and he indicates it is all about land purchasing right now, and any solution is years away.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if there is a better, temporary solution ?

Chief Beloit replied not really. The trucks, if they go out Port Road going west, stick out in the eastbound lanes of the highway, and that isn't safe either.

Mayor Tucker added that if Aventine starts up, the problem will only get worse as truck traffic will really pick up.

Councilman Curtis stated it sounds as if they are years away of getting to the by-pass stage in order to take the traffic off Kimball but safety is definitely an issue crossing the eastbound lanes of Hwy 62.

Councilwoman Higgins asked if Edson and Sycamore could be added to the weight limit ordinance ?

Councilwoman Askren suggested they wait another two weeks until after the meeting with the Port and Consolidated Grain, to decide on which streets they need to address.

Council consented.

2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3<sup>rd</sup> District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Curtis stated he has no report.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker stated if there were no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor



ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe  
Clerk-Treasurer